

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2908

By Mr. Connolly of Everett, petition of Edward G. Connolly and others for legislation to establish an office of prevention of sexual harassment of members and former members of the armed forces. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Edward G. Connolly	Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Louis L. Kafka	Shirley Gomes
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	Anthony J. Verga
Christine E. Canavan	Thomas M. McGee

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

### AN ACT TO DEVELOP AN OFFICE TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Chapter seven of the Mass. General Laws is hereby amended
- 2 by adding, at the end of section 4M, the following paragraph:—
- 3 There shall be established, within the department of veterans’
- 4 services, an Office of Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Mem-
- 5 bers and Former Members of the Armed Forces, whose mission is
- 6 to evaluate conditions and incidences of sexual harassment of
- 7 members of the armed forces, and of veterans of the armed forces.
- 8 Among the duties of the Office is to evaluate the scope and
- 9 impact of problems relative to sexual harassment within the armed
- 10 forces and for veterans; problems being experienced by victims of
- 11 sexual harassment; evaluate preventive measures, education and
- 12 training, and counseling measures that could be implemented to
- 13 prevent sexual harassment, and other conditions and factors rele-
- 14 vant to determining comprehensive information and data.

15 The Office shall, upon completion of its evaluation and review,  
16 issue its findings and recommendations, and make all efforts to  
17 implement directives, preventive measures, codes of conduct,  
18 compliance procedures for adherence to rules, regulations and  
19 laws governing acts of sexual harassment, counseling, education  
20 and guidance, or other support services, and any other initiatives  
21 designed to assist veterans and members of the armed forces who  
22 have or who are experiencing acts of sexual harassment during  
23 their current or past tour of duty in the armed forces, or who need  
24 assistance and support services during transitions into civilian life.

25 The Office shall utilize all available resources to fulfill its  
26 intent and objectives, including, but not limited to, current  
27 resources and services available, access to services, treatment, and  
28 programs existing in any state agency or subdivisions, and to call  
29 upon veterans who have left service and who would be available,  
30 on a voluntary basis, to fulfill supportive, counseling, guidance, or  
31 any other role that would assist victims of sexual harassment.